

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : New Application  
Applicant : HALAMODA et al.  
Filed: : Herewith  
TC/A.U. : To Be Assigned  
Examiner : To Be Assigned

Docket No. : 7863/80940  
Customer No. : 22242

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Customer Window, Mail Stop New Patent Application  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202

January 9, 2004

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement filed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98, within the time specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b).

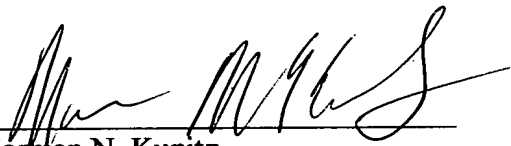
Attached is a copy of DE 41 28 933 C2, which was cited in an Office Action, a copy of which is enclosed, issued November 6, 2003 by the German Patent Office in connection with the counterpart German application. No English translation of either the reference or of the Office Action is presently readily available. However, an English abstract is enclosed. Moreover, it is noted that the enclosed reference corresponds to the US Patent Number 5,214,991.

A form PTO/SB/08 identifying the references likewise is enclosed.

Since all requirements for the filing of Information Disclosure Statements has been complied with, it is requested that the Examiner consider the enclosed references and indicate

such consideration by enclosing a properly initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08 with the initial Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,  
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By:   
Norman N. Kunitz  
Registration No. 20,586  
Telephone No. (202) 419-7000  
Facsimile No. (202) 419-7007

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY  
1801 K Street, NW  
Suite 401L  
Washington, DC 20006-1201  
Telephone: (202) 419-7000  
Facsimile: (202) 419-7007

<b>PTO/SB/08A</b> Substitute for Form PTO-1449  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number		New Application	
				Filing Date		Herewith	
				First Named Inventor		HALAMODA et al.	
				Art Unit		To Be Assigned	
				Examiner Name		To Be Assigned	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket		7863/80940	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup>			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup>				
		DE 41 28 933 C2	2-08-1996	SHIMIZU et al.		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

<b>PTO/SB/08A</b> Substitute for Form PTO-1449  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	New Application		
		Filing Date	Herewith		
		First Named Inventor	HALAMODA et al.		
		Art Unit	To Be Assigned		
		Examiner Name	To Be Assigned		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket	7863/80940

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup>			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup>				
		DE 41 28 933 C2	2-08-1996	SHIMIZU et al.		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.